

2020 Candidate Questionnaire - School Regionalization - 2 short questions!

As a 2020 candidate for Middletown or Newport Town Councils or School Committee - CITIZENS EXPLORING SCHOOL UNIFICATION is asking ALL candidates to REPLY to 2 questions below. The responses will be published on our website, social media, and with all local media outlets. CANDIDATES who DO NOT RESPOND to the survey - CESU will publish that you DECLINED to participate in the survey. DEADLINE to complete is August 31, 2020, *if you have questions about this survey - send an email to info@cesu.news We will reply within 24-hours.

Email address *

jim.miller@embracebenfiits.com

First and Last Name *

James Miller

What position are you running for? *

- Town Council
- School Committee

Do you support an updated study of school regionalization between Newport and Middletown? *

Yes

No

Other:

Why OR Why Not? Please describe your position in detail (1,000-word limit)! *

As a resident of Middletown I would like to know what opportunities exist if we were to consolidate our high school with Newport's Rogers High School. We are facing a significant investment at Middletown High School to bring it to an acceptable condition. It is in need of a major refit or an out right replacement. Either option represents a significant cost to the town. Our children deserve the best facility we can provide them and before we make the investment needed we should ensure the course of action we choose is the best available.

The buildings are only one aspect of the regionalization decision. What benefits come from having a larger enrollment? Are there more programs we can offer? Can the AP program expand? Can the existing Trade programs at Rogers expand? In 1973, in the middle of eighth grade, my family moved from Middletown to Philadelphia. There were several different high schools that I could attend. 1. South Philadelphia High School the local school. 2. Central High School considered the best for college prep. 3. The Parkway Program - an alternative school located in Center City. I entered the lottery for the latter and was fortunate to be chosen to attend. This opportunity was created by Philadelphia Public Schools by combining regions and allowing schools to serve diverse populations. Would consolidation lead to better educational programs for our children? Conducting the study would help answer these questions.

I am not an expert in Education but I have learned in business that collaboration and information leads to better decisions. The study achieves both.

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